

is imparted in such a way that the tedium usually attaching thereto is altogether eased off. This is a capital idea and strictly Goodwinian.

Some pretty good language issues from lips which make it sound rather strangely at times, and reasoning of an order seldom met with outside of the best books and the greater papers does service to those who surprise us with it; but this is not a fault. As, in a play, an incident or a conversation at times departs from the usual to heighten the effect and render more impressive the surroundings so do the rounded periods and sound reasoning spoken of make the plot and its incidents more effective without in the least trenching upon the domain of the things unreasonable. Judge Goodwin is a rhetorician of so many years' constant experience, is so trained in the use of choice sentences, that common-places seem incongruous and elegant diction quite appropriate in his work, no matter where it may be placed. "The Wedge of Gold" is first-class reading; from beginning to end it breathes and elaborates a theme dear to the author's heart—the glorification of the mineral kingdom.

A FALSE REPORT.

Quite a sensation in political circles was created by a recent dispatch announcing that Congressman Bryan of Nebraska, one of the ablest orators and most promising among the young legislators of the country, as a result of his state convention endorsing the President's financial policy had withdrawn from the Democratic party and enlisted in the ranks of the Populists. The dispatch, it seems, was a little too "previous" if not altogether astray as to his information as, while Mr. Bryan is unalterably opposed to the single standard views of Mr. Cleveland and a majority of the congressmen, he seems to prefer to effect reforms from within rather than without the lines of the organization with which he has all along acted.

A Washington dispatch says the gentleman returned to the scene of his duties on the 7th inst. from the Democratic state convention in Nebraska and was warmly greeted by his friends on the floor of the House. He was asked what he had to say in regard to the rumor that he would leave the Democratic party and turn Populist, becoming a candidate for United States senator to succeed Senator Manderson. He said he did not have anything to say about a senatorship. As to the report that he was to leave the Democratic party, he would say, as he had said at the convention: "Whenever I am satisfied that the Democratic party as a party is in favor of a single gold standard, I will serve my country under another name." The important fact remains, however, that the impulsive young man received a severe set-back if not indeed a snub, at the hands of his fellow Democrats at home. The convention rejected his leadership, and passed a vote of confidence in the financial policy of President Cleveland.

BRITANNIA MAY rule the waves, but Columbia wins the races.

"STRAIGHT" POLITICS.

There was a meeting in the old Federal court room last evening of a number of gentlemen who style themselves "straight Democrats." They had a grievance which they are seeking surcease of in a movement apart from that of the convention of Monday. They claim that this was not satisfactory in that it failed to put up a ticket or take any other definite action, and this being the case, the party as a whole has nothing to support, no principles to maintain and no able leaders to follow.

As the NEWS looks at it, the other convention took such action as was the logical sequence of the municipality's present condition: that is, regarding the means by which the situation is to be relieved as a business rather than a political proposition, the delegates decided to contend with it as such, each acting in his individual capacity as a man of business concerned in the welfare of the municipality. Looking at it in this manner, to have nominated a party ticket, whereby strength that they think should be centered against those responsible for the deplorable condition would be scattered and its power for good completely dissipated, would have been manifestly improper; so that, in this view of the case, they did the best, if not the only proper thing they could do.

It were heartily to be wished that our citizens in the present emergency at least would be less disposed to resort to partisanship and take a more general concern in the welfare of the whole people. Not that party organization is to be derided or its being brought to bear upon political questions. But surely the purification and redemption of the city are matters concerning which Democrats, Republicans and Liberals ought to be able to see eye to eye. Straight politics just now would accordingly seem to mean aid and encouragement to the common enemy.

EXPANDING AND COLONIZING.

Attached to California and stretching out southerly into the Pacific ocean for a distance of some 600 miles opposite the mainland of Mexico is what is known as Lower California. The water separating it from Mexico is called the Gulf of California and is from ten to 100 miles wide, the tongue of land spoken of being about the same. On it are various towns of varying consequence and the entire tract has for many years been an object of quiet interest. We are now advised that one Wm. A. Wendon of London, who has lately been visiting the lower part of the state, is reported to have said that arrangements had been about completed for the purchase of Lower California, and that he represented a syndicate composed of English and American capitalists backing the scheme. According to the story told \$9,000,000 was to be paid to the Mexican government for the territory which would then be annexed to the United States. This is pronounced a

very old story, this talk of purchasing Lower California. It would, the *Chronicle* thinks, be interesting to know just what capitalists at this particular era of financial stringency can find \$9,000,000 handy for such an investment as the one mentioned. The fact that a resident of Sausalito is the owner of a Mexican land grant in Lower California, it is thought, may have something to do with the story. This land grant is situated near Ensenada and contains between 20,000 and 30,000 acres.

The disposition to colonize new countries is quite legitimate when undertaken for the purpose of securing new homes or establishing new enterprises and new conditions and is not the mainspring of some huge speculation in which the projectors so arrange things as to make catspaws of the colonists and lose nothing themselves in the event of a collapse. The Topolampo colony is composed of Americans and is at last represented as in a flourishing condition with great promises. Likewise of the colonies of our people, this is situated in the northern part of Mexico and was entered upon pursuant to a concession by that government. The climate is pronounced delightful and the soil yields so abundantly that the colonists have plenty and to spare, while health is the rule and sickness the exception.

Even then it is not always desirable for some people to go to such places, and listening to a recital of the advantages which they possess gives the more imaginative an idea that they are all Arcadias, which none of them is by a great deal. All require first a considerable amount of that quality in man which enables him to live apart from the people and scenes made dear by long associations and connections, considerable knowledge of how to grapple with stubborn conditions with sufficient hardihood to act upon the knowledge, and no end of industry allied to such perseverance as falters not in the presence of discouragements. There are plenty of such people and we have as large a proportion as any other part of the country has, but all are not so constituted by any means. As a general thing, when the newness is gone it is discovered that the attractiveness kept it company. When, however, a colony or series of colonies are made permanent and the genius of growth and progress is infused into them, they aid the people and the country. The desire to belong to and live in the land of one's birth sometimes, too, is a good thing all around; for it keeps in view the ultimate cession of the colony to the fatherland, and where this is practicable it is reasonable to suppose the first favorable opportunity will be taken advantage of. Some people think the United States is quite big enough already, and it is tolerably extensive sure enough; but it doesn't control as much territory as either England or Russia yet by a considerable.

ORIGIN OF A FOLLY.

A few weeks ago the people of St. Louis enjoyed themselves in the annually recurring mummery and masked festival known as the Veiled Prophets.